

Campisi-Ruby links studied

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and DON FISHER

The House Assassinations Committee subpoenaed Dallas restaurant owner Joseph Campisi because of reports that he and Jack Ruby were well-acquainted before President John F. Kennedy was killed in 1963, The News was told Friday.

Committee investigators, who have subpoenaed Campisi to testify in Washington next Thursday, are trying to locate a Dallas woman who reportedly has said she was at Campisi's house a number of times when Ruby was there playing cards. She said she was friends with Campisi and Ruby.

Investigators apparently are interested in a series of contradictions contained in two FBI interviews with Campisi before and after he visited Ruby in a Dallas jail Nov. 30, 1963.

In the a Nov. 25 interview, Campisi told FBI agents that Ruby "operated out of his hip pocket," meaning he would carry money from receipts at his Carousel Club and pay his bills with cash. He said this explained why Ruby had \$2,000 on him at the time of his arrest.

HOWEVER, IN a Dec. 7 interview, Campisi told other FBI agents he "never knew of him (Ruby) to carry large sums of money. He said he was surprised when he heard that Ruby

was carrying \$2,000 at the time of his arrest. He said he always knew Ruby to be very frugal and close-fisted."

Campisi also said in the second interview that he knew "nothing of Ruby's background or associates and doesn't know of anyone who ever lived with him, as he never socialized with him."

However, in the Nov. 25 interview, Campisi said he had known Ruby since about 1948 — when Ruby moved to Dallas from Chicago — and had attended a number of sporting events with him.

Campisi also said in the first interview that Ruby "was acquainted with Dallas gamblers Johnny Ross Patrono, Bobby Chapman, Russell Douglas Matthews and Jimmy Vouras. He also stated he was of the opinion Ruby was acquainted with known Dallas police character Marvin Ralph Prestridge."

IN THE FIRST interview, Campisi said he had been in Ruby's Carousel and Vegas clubs "numerous times."

His last contact with Ruby before Lee Harvey Oswald was shot was when Ruby came to Campisi's Egyptian Restaurant "for a steak" the night before the Kennedy assassination, Campisi said.

Campisi told the FBI that during the 10-minute jail visit with Ruby Nov. 30, Ruby asked if Ruby's "friends were mad at him and also asked him about the lawyer he had retained." Ruby had been in jail since Nov. 24 when he shot

and fatally wounded Oswald in the basement of the Dallas police station.

Ruby said he had received much mail in jail and "all the girls love me," Campisi said. Ruby also broke down crying during the jail visit, he said.

CAMPISI EXPLAINED Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker had summoned him to the jail in behalf of Ruby and that, at the time, he didn't "know of anyone else who has visited Ruby" in jail.

Campisi told the FBI he had "never heard Ruby ever mention anyone by the name" of Lee Harvey Oswald or any of Oswald's aliases.

The News contacted the son of the woman who reportedly said Campisi and Ruby played cards at Campisi's house. The son, a Catholic priest in East Texas, said his mother currently is traveling around the country in a mobile home and cannot be contacted.

Campisi has refused to comment about the House Assassinations Committee's interest in him.